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LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement by the President of the Azerbaijani Republic, Mr. Abulfaz Elchibey, regarding the joint statement made on 3 January 1993 by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, and the President of the United States of America, Mr. George Bush, on Nagorny Karabakh.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the President of Azerbaijan in connection with the joint statement made by President Yeltsin and President Bush concerning Nagorny Karabakh

Your joint statement concerning the bloody war between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the fact that you firmly advocated an immediate cessation of hostilities and the urgent convening of a meeting at Minsk of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe is a token of your good will and your profound concern at the great human tragedy and loss of life; this deserves the highest praise. At the same time, the people of Azerbaijan are extremely dissatisfied with the attitude of international organizations and larger States towards the true nature of the events taking place. Armenia's open aggression against Azerbaijan is self-evident; Armenia's objective is to seize certain Azerbaijani territories by force. The adoption by the Supreme Council of Armenia of a decision on Armenia's annexation of Nagorny Karabakh, which is, as everyone knows, part of Azerbaijan, is a shameful fact that exposes the true intentions of the Armenian side. Yet, this shameful fact has been passed over in silence, and its political implications have not been properly assessed. To date, the decision itself has for some reason not been rescinded.

Armenia's open aggression is evident not only in its occupation of the mountainous part of Karabakh but in its seizure of other Azerbaijani territory: Lachin, five villages of the Kazakh District, the village of Kyarki in Nakhichevan, nine villages of the Zangelan District, the continuous rocket and artillery bombardment of virtually all towns and villages along the frontier, and countless incursions into our territory. It is the fault of the Armenian side that the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic is being blockaded and its population deprived of essential commodities, food and electricity.

Yet no one's attention has been drawn to the fact that all the military operations are being conducted in the territory of Azerbaijan. In short, what is taking place between Azerbaijan and Armenia is by no means a conflict between two guilty parties. On the contrary, it is a question of aggression. Unless the aggressor is identified, it will be difficult to put an end to the bloody war. I believe that this is the only reason why the war is dragging on.

With the aid of the numerous and influential Armenian communities throughout the world, the aggressor is seeking to lay the blame on others, divert the international community's attention from the real nature of the events taking place, and influence the policies of world Powers; occasionally these efforts are successful. One example of this is the unwarranted and biased decision of the United States Congress to deprive Azerbaijan, which is at a crucial stage in its transition to democracy, of essential assistance and support.

I would draw your attention to the fact that, until now, Armenia has rejected all attempts to find political means of ending the war.

Immediately after the joint statement by the three ministers for foreign affairs in February 1992 in Moscow, Armenian nationalists perpetrated a massacre in the town of Khodzhaly where Azeris lived, which resulted in the death of thousands of innocent people.

On the very day in May 1992 that an agreement on a cease-fire was signed at Tehran, Armenia launched a cruel offensive and occupied the Azerbaijani town of Shusha. Several days later, during the meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, another town - Lachin - was occupied.

Quite recently, after political consultations at Geneva in December 1992 in which five sides participated, and on the eve of the Stockholm meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, there was a further escalation of hostilities. Violating the State frontier of the Azerbaijani Republic, Armenian armies made an incursion of 15 kilometres into its territory, seized and burned 13 villages and killed and captured hundreds of peaceful inhabitants. None of this was given a proper political assessment or the condemnation it deserved.

Distinguished Presidents, I fully share your opinion that the continuing cruel confrontation between Azerbaijan and Armenia is increasing the number of human victims, causing irreparable damage to the economies of the two countries, hindering their efforts to strengthen democracy, and destabilizing the entire Transcaucasian region. It is for this reason that we express our support for your call for a peaceful and just settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict on the basis of generally accepted international principles, laws and norms. We are prepared to participate actively in all measures undertaken to achieve this end.